

BIRR PARISH

Parish Office: 057 9122028 **Parish Mobile:** 087-3515294

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Priest on Duty - Please call Parish Mobile - 087-3515294

Parish Office Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Fr. Tom Hogan—057-9121757

Fr. Antony Sajeesh - 057-9121757

Fr. Kieran Blake, Kilcolman - 057-9120812

Fr. Michael O'Meara, Kinnitty - 057-9137021

St Pio Mass takes place next Thursday evening, 15th July at 7.30 p.m.

Congratulations to Peter Dooley, Hillside, on his selection for the Ireland Senior rugby team. Peter is the son of Martina and Gerry and is a past pupil of St. Brendan's Community School.

July 11th - Feast of St Bernard, Patron Saint of Europe.

He lived from 480-543 in Umbria, Italy and spent years as a hermit in a mountain cave at Subiaco east of Rome. He was inspired to gather companions to live a monastic life in community. Later he moved to Monte Cassino near Naples. He is known as the "Father of Monasticism". The Rule of Saint Benedict is admired for its balance and moderation and became the most influential monastic rule in Western Christendom. Into the Middle Ages it was mainly the monasteries that provided education and preserved the culture of Greece and Rome in the west. For this reason, Benedict is honoured by the Catholic church as the patron of Europe.

July 15th - Feast of St. Swithin

St. Swithin, also spelt Swithun, was born in Wessex, England and was educated at the old monastery of Winchester, where he was ordained. He became chaplain to King Egbert of the West Saxons, who appointed him tutor of his son, Ethelwulf, and was one of the King's counsellors. St. Swithin was named bishop of Winchester in 852 when Ethelwulf succeeded his father as king. He built several churches and was known for his humility and his aid to the poor and needy. He died on July 2. A long-held superstition declares it will rain for forty days if it rains on his feast day of July 15, but the reasons for and origin of this belief are unknown.

Birr Parish Finance

Donations can be made to the parish in a number of ways - via Parish Envelopes, set up a standing order or via electronic transfer to the Birr Parish bank account - IBAN - IE40 BOFI 9016 7724 9407 77.

Parish Donations during the month of **June** was **€5,538**. We are very grateful for your continued support.

Remembered in Mass this Week

Sat 10th	7.30 p.m.	James & Eileen Ryan
Sun 11th	10.30 a.m.	Bernard & Colin Russell William Egan, Cree
	12 noon	Fr. Tony Cahir, PP Johnny Cleary
Carrig	9.30 a.m.	Ciss & Jack Cashen
Tues 13th	10.00 a.m.	Deceased Eucharistic Adorers
Thur 15th	10.00 a.m.	Patrick & Michael Hutchinson & grandchildren
Sat 17th	7.30 p.m.	Tom & Christina Brereton Martin Guilfoyle and his parents William & Margaret Michael Hickey Cora Kenny
Sun 18th	8.30 a.m.	William & Florence Cooke & their son Teddy
	12 noon	Gemma Ely (MM) Patrick & Elizabeth Mullins, Fairview Keith family John O'Connor

Please Pray for the Souls of



Kathleen Hogan, Ballyegan,
Sister of Billy Carroll, Whiteford
Francis "Francie" Thompson, Norfolk, UK &
late of Pound Street,
uncle of the Corrigan family,
Moorpark Street,
Diarmuid Doolan, Curraclloe, Wexford
& late of Oxmantown Mall, Birr.

Sleeping St Joseph



Sleeping St. Joseph Fridge Magnets

Pope Francis has promoted devotion to the Sleeping Saint Joseph. Joseph, while he was asleep was visited by the Holy Spirit in his dreams when making difficult decisions in his life. So Pope Francis puts his prayer request under the image of the Sleeping St. Joseph when he is going to sleep in the evening time. The next day he will revisit the presenting issue with fresh insight.

Fridge Magnets of Sleeping St. Joseph are now on sale in the Parish Office and after Mass. €3.00 each or 2 for €5.00. All proceeds to Birr Parish.

Sponsored By

Anonymous

My Mask

Holy God, you see me and you hear me.
Through my mask, you see if I smile or if I scowl.
Through my mask, you hear me if I whisper a brief prayer or mutter a muffled curse.
My friends don't see or hear or know; nor do my family; nor my colleagues.
But you do.

This mask takes away power – the power of clear communication but also the possibility to infect. But it also grants a freedom to be with.

My smiles, my thoughts, my mumbles, though – these I know, but they are a greater mystery to others now. But not to you, Lord. You see past my mask, you hear through it, you know.
But your mask, Lord, what about your mask? Who can see through your mask? Hear through it?
I cannot.

I cannot see if you smile or if you scowl.
I cannot hear if you whisper an answer to my prayer or brush off my curse.
I cannot sense if you are pleased with me or if you are waiting for me to do much better.

Can we all take off our masks, Lord? Put them away? When the disease that moves us to mask our faces for safety fades away, will our eyes and our ears be stronger, better able to see and to hear the smiles and the frowns, the cries and the whispers of those who fill our lives? Who make our lives worth living?

Will we see, Lord, that what we think of as your mask is really also our own, our inability to find you in the rush of our lives, our failure to see you in all the wonders you show us, our incapacity to hear your gentle voice in the tumult that surrounds us.

Can we know, Lord, that we put on many masks so we can cope, avoid, pretend, be acceptable? (What scar did the Phantom's mask hide? "Who was that masked man?")

Help us, Lord, to move beyond our masks. You are here for us to see and to hear. Help us. Let us take off our masks.

- By Fr. Edward Schmidt S.J.

Cemetery Mass will take place in Clonoghill on Thursday 22nd July at 7.30pm.

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Roinnt Paidreacha.

Éisteann Dia lenár n-achainí í gcónaí "Tá an briathar an-ghar duit; tá sé i do bhéal agus i do chroí agat le comhlíonadh" Deot. 30:14 Má osclaímid ár gcroí bíonn cluas le héisteacht ar Dhia. I spioradáltacht Cheilteach bhí ár sinsear an – tugtha do Dhia. Bhí paidir ar leith acu do gach ócáid. Is iad seo roinnt díobh.

Ag dul ar aistear

Dia idir mé agus uisce mo bháite,
Dia idir mé agus tine mo dhóite,
Dia idir mé agus bás gan cairde,
Dia idir mé agus taisme bhóthar.

Nuair a bhíonn briseadh ar d'fhoighne

Solas na soilse
Agus radharc na Tríonóide
Agus grásta na foighne
In aghaidh na héagóra

Beannacht tí, roimh dhul isteach den chéad uair i dteach nua.

Dia, beannaigh an teach seo,
Ó shuíomh go stagh,
Ó chrann go balla,
Ó cheann go ceann,
Ó bhuaic go híoslach,
Ó bhalc go díon,
Ó bhonn go barr. Áiméan.

Buíochas:

Moladh go deo leat, a Shlánaítheoir a rug saor mé ón mbuairt seo, ar a shon nach fiú go gcuirfeá rath ná sé-an orm. Áiméan.

Some Prayers

When we pray God always listens to us. "The word of God is very close to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance "Deut. 30:14. If we open our hearts, God will not turn away. In Celtic spirituality our ancestors were very devoted to God. They had a special prayer for every occasion.

Going on a journey:

God between me and drowning,
God between me and fire.
God may I not die in debt,
God between me and the road accident.

For Patience:

Light of lights,
and vision of the Trinity,
and the grace of patience
against injustice.

Blessing of a House, when entering for the first time:

God bless this house
from site to foundation, from beam to wall,
from end to end,
from ridge to basement,
from beam to roof,
from beginning to end. Amen.

In thanksgiving:

Praise and thanks to you Lord, for freeing me from this trouble, I'd never dare to claim such care, so thanks Lord on the double. Amen.